

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Kernan Awards Training Grant to Portage's Crown ESA

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded a \$128,385 grant to Portage's Crown E.S.A., Inc. to upgrade the skills of 15 employees.

Crown E.S.A., Inc. is a compilation of multiple-discipline engineering and manufacturing professionals that design, build, install, and service projects requiring the specific automation skills of engineers experienced in electrical and electronics, mechanical, fluid power, and computer network solutions. The company was recently awarded the 'INC 500' award for being one of the fastest growing small businesses in the nation. Crown E.S.A. has also been recognized by the Kelley School of Business as one of the 'Top 10 Growing Businesses' and received multiple entrepreneurial awards from the state of Indiana.

"Increasing the skill levels of our information technology professionals is important to the future of our state," said Kernan. "The company's commitment to lifelong learning for their employees is not only beneficial to its overall growth but to the employee's personal growth as well. I am glad we have been able to partner with Crown E.S.A. in this exciting training program."

After conducting extensive market research with its existing customers, it became imperative for the organization to diversify its services and market segments as quickly as possible to maintain the sustainability of the company. As a result, the company identified 15 information technology employees to participate in rigorous 'boot camp' training in Microsoft and Cisco technologies. Participants will be certified in both technologies at the completion of this grant in December 2005.

"Not only did the boot camp method better represent itself from a funding aspect, but also from a company standpoint as our incumbents will be trained in a much shorter time," said Richard Shields, Crown E.S.A.'s government marketing/sales account manager. "In the end, the training will provide our incumbents with more technical flexibility and contribute to continual company growth and diversification."

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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